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STATE MEDIATION BOARD STEPS UP ACTIVITIES

Albany, N. Y.—The New York State Mediation Board disposed of 813 cases during the first six months of 1948, Industrial Commissioner Edward Corsi, head of the State Labor Department, announced. This total represents an increase of 56 per cent over the 521 cases closed during the same period of last year. The number of cases on hand during the first half of this year totaled 1,022.

More than half, approximately 58 per cent of the cases closed, involved potential work stoppages and 15 per cent were concerned with actual work stoppages. In the remainder of the cases strike threats had been eliminated in advance through agreements between the disputing parties.

HALF OF FIRMS INSPECTED GUILTY OF VIOLATING FEDERAL LABOR STATUTES

Washington.—Despite continuance of the unprecedented business boom with its high profits, more than half of the establishments investigated by Labor Department representatives in the year ending June 30 were guilty of violating the minimum wage, overtime, and child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Public Contracts Act.

This was brought out in the annual report on investigations made by William R. McComb, administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the Labor Department.

In his report for the 1948 fiscal year, McComb pointed out that only 30,053 selected inspections were made. While 15,799 of the inspections showed violations of the three major provisions of the two acts, McComb said this does not necessarily mean that the non-complying employers had been revealed to be in current or prolonged violation during the two-year period of activities covered by the inspections.

Of the employers found in violation, 9,582 arranged to make restitution of \$4,256,761 in back wages to some 100,000 employees. About 90,000 of those employees were owed back wages because they had not received overtime compensation at the rate of time and one-half their regular rate of pay for work beyond 40 hours in a work-week. However approximately 12,000 were owed back wages because their employers had failed to pay them at least 40 cents an hour at some time during the past two years.

NLRB JURISDICTION EXTENDED TO RETAIL FIELD

Washington.—Further evidence of the expanding jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Board appeared in a trial examiner's determination that a retail photographic store was subject to the Taft-Hartley law. He also found that a local union of the AFL retail clerks had violated the act by insisting on a closed-shop contract in that store. The examiner, Isadore Greenberg, held that the purchase of 44 per cent of its merchandise outside California brought the A-1 Photo Service, San Pedro, under the terms of the act.

The union, in demanding continuation of a closed-shop clause which had been in contracts with the firm since 1944, took the position that the firm's business, being entirely retail, did not "affect commerce" within the meaning of the act.

RISE IN CONSUMER CREDIT SETS NEW POSTWAR PEAK

Washington.—The expansion of consumer credit is continuing and has reached another record high of \$14,149,000,000, according to reports of the Federal Reserve Board.

Of the \$331,000,000 increase during June, about two-thirds was attributable to further gains in installment buying.

The remainder of the increase was due almost entirely to an increase in the amount outstanding on charge accounts.

The board report showed total installment credit at a record high of its own, \$7,192,000,000 at the beginning of July.

This meant Americans had gone \$1,738,000,000 deeper into debt on the installment plan during the 8 months since time-payment controls died last November 1.

AFL PHOTO-ENGRAVERS WIN \$12 PAY INCREASE

Chicago.—Local 5 of the AFL's Photo-Engravers Union here won a \$12 weekly pay boost under terms of a new contract with the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association.

The contract covers 275 engravers employed by the five daily newspapers. It extends from July 17, 1948, to January 17, 1950. No opening for wage negotiations is provided during this period.

FEDERAL LABOR UNION WINS 7-CENT PAY HIKE

Manville, N. J.—Nearly 3,000 employees, members of the AFL's Federal Labor Union 21626, won a 7-cent hourly pay increase un-

der terms of a new contract negotiated with the Johns-Manville plant here.

The agreement, which was ratified by the union's membership, provides double time for the 7th consecutive day of work, four hours instead of two hours call-in pay, and payroll deductions for union initiation fees.

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